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SEGA
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SHADOW RETURNS...
... AND SONIC DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE!
DIRECT EDITION
14511

SHADOW WAS CREATED ONBOARD A LAB LOCATED IN GEOSYNCH ORBIT OVER THE PLANET MOBIUS, AND ORIGINALLY CONSIDERED A PRODUCT, A CONSTRUCTION, A WEAPON, ANYTHING BUT WHAT IT TRULY WAS, A BIOMECHANICAL LIFEFORM!

BY EVERY KNOWN DEFINITION, IT WAS SENTIENT! IT COULD THINK, REASON... AND FEEL!

SINCE THE DEATH OF ITS CREATOR SHORTLY AFTER ACTIVATION, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY QUESTIONS AND ZERO ANSWERS...

...SO FAR, THAT IS. SHADOW'S QUEST BEGINS HERE...

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (issn:10705090), No. 145, Mar., 2005. Published every 4 weeks, twice in March by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies $2.19 in the U.S.; $2.59 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. $28.47 for 13 issues; $33.67 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2000. SEGA CORPORATION and SONICTEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2005. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 650 Townsend St., Ste. 650, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada

SHADOWS OF HOPE

THEY'VE BEEN COMING HERE LIKE CLOCKWORK THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS--

--DOING THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER! WHY? TO WHAT PURPOSE?

SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT LEFFLER AND DYNA LOPEZ AT SEGA LICENSING

IN ANSWER TO A ZILLION READER REQUESTS...

KEN PENDERS/Writer • RON LIM/Penciler • AL MILGROM/Inker
JOHN WORKMAN/Letterer • JASON JENSEN/Colorist

...PRESENT A SMALL GLIMPSE OF THE SAGA OF *SHADOW!*

MIKE PELLERITO/EDITOR • VICTOR GORELICK/MANAGING EDITOR • RICHARD GOLDWATER/ EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

IDENTIFY YOURSELF--

--OR ELSE BE CONSIDERED A *FOE!*

I AM NEITHER FRIEND NOR FOE--

--JUST SOMEONE IN *NEED* OF YOUR *ABILITIES!*

IN MY DESIRE TO CONFRONT THE *CREATURE,* I HAD CARE-LESSLY OVER-LOOKED THE POSSI-BILITY--

--THAT I MIGHT DRAW *INNOCENTS* INTO THE LINE OF *FIRE!*

OH!

IT'S HIM!

THE *CHOICE* IS *YOURS!*

THEN I CHOOSE *NOT* TO BE *INVOLVED* WITH YOUR AFFAIRS!

I *RESPECT* YOUR DECISION--

THWIIIP!

--THOUGH I'M AFRAID I CAN'T TAKE "*NO*" FOR AN *ANSWER!*

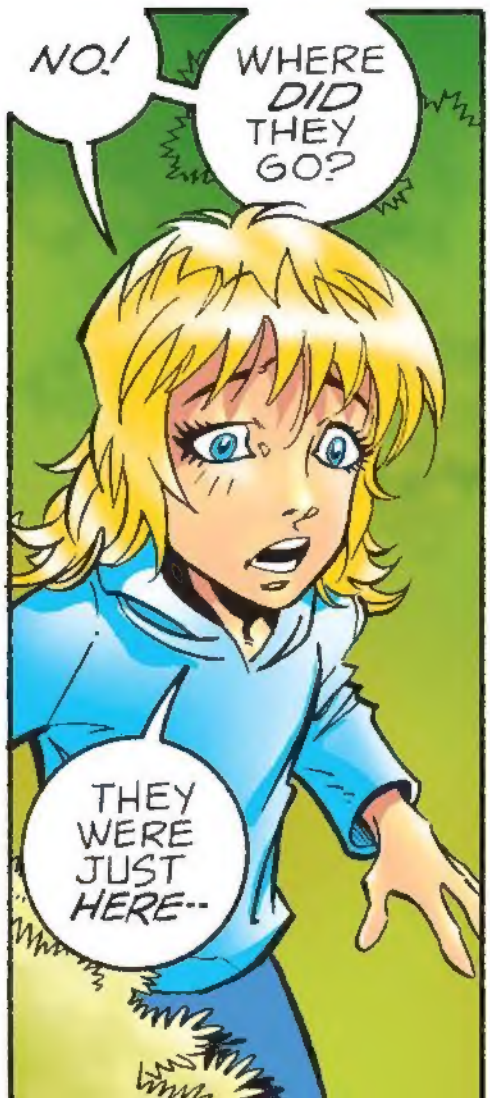
WHUMP!

YOU MUST BE *MAD* IF YOU BELIEVE FOR ONE MOMENT--

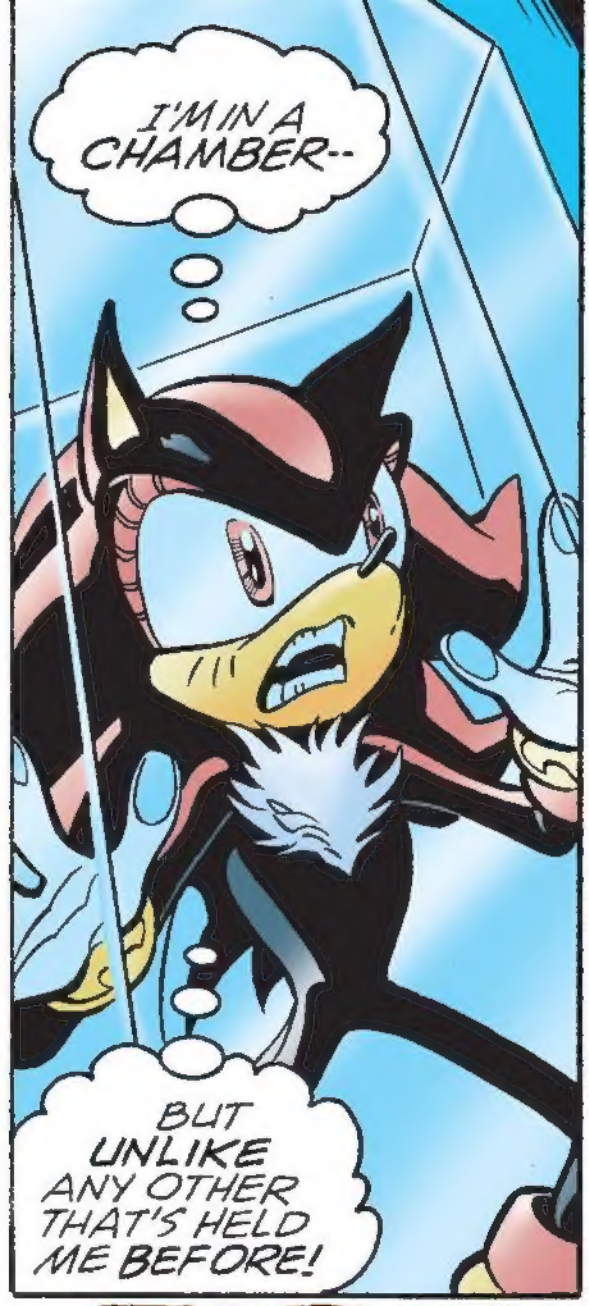
--ALL IT TAKES IS SOME *STRING* TO TAKE ME *DOWN!*

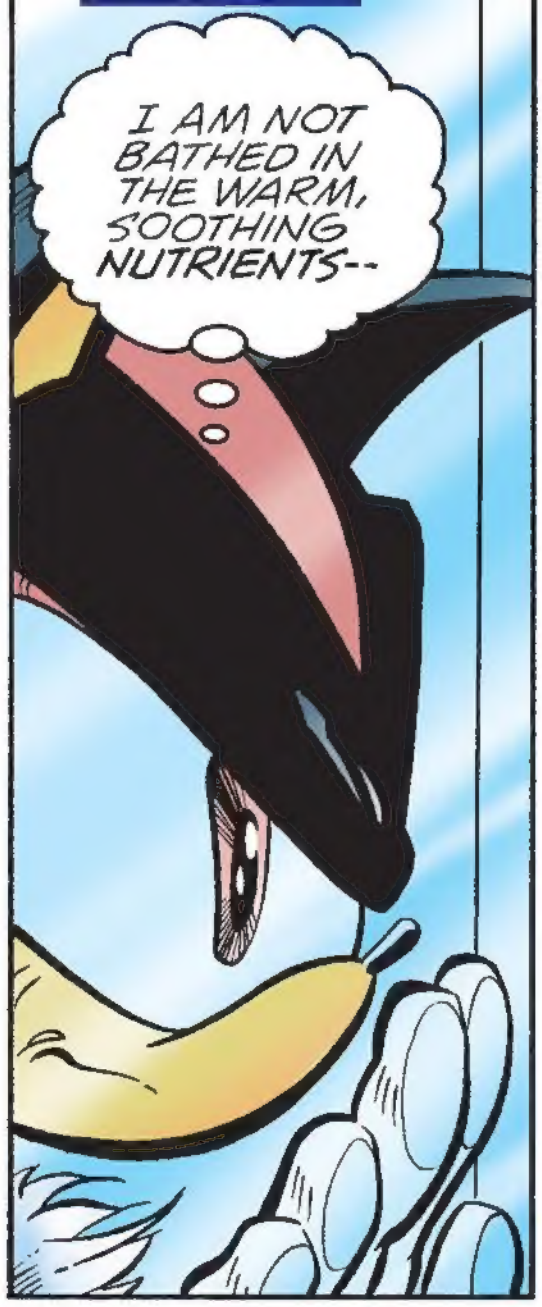
NOW THAT I *KNOW* AN *ENEMY* STANDS BEFORE ME--

--I WILL NOT HESITATE TO...



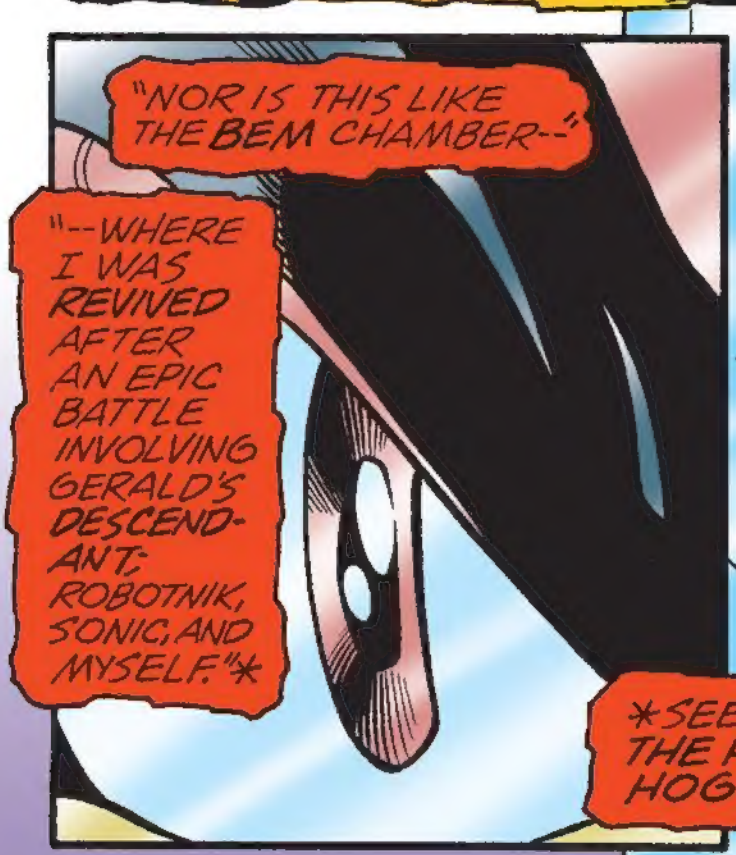
PHYSICALLY, IT IS CLEARLY MY SUPERIOR, WITH NO APPARENT WEAKNESSES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF.
ALL I HAVE IS EXPERIENCE, GUILE--
--A KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMBAT ARTS--
THUDD
CLICK
--AND THE POWER OF THE CHAOS EMERALD, CHANNELED ANY WAY YOU WANT TO SLICE IT...
HURRMMM!

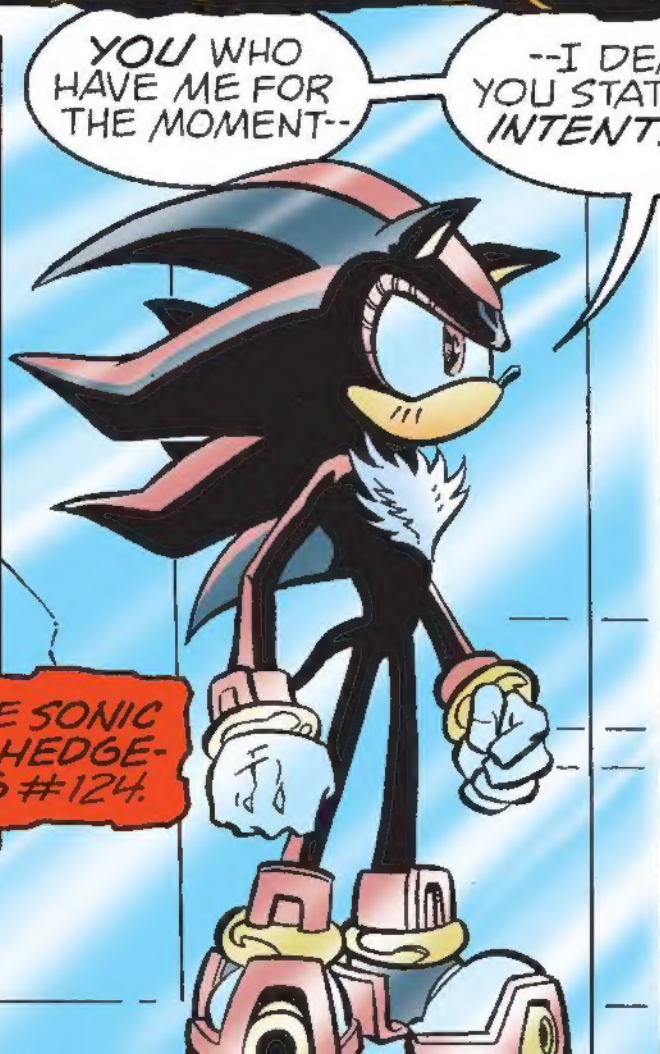

I'M IN A CHAMBER--
BUT UNLIKE ANY OTHER THAT'S HELD ME BEFORE!

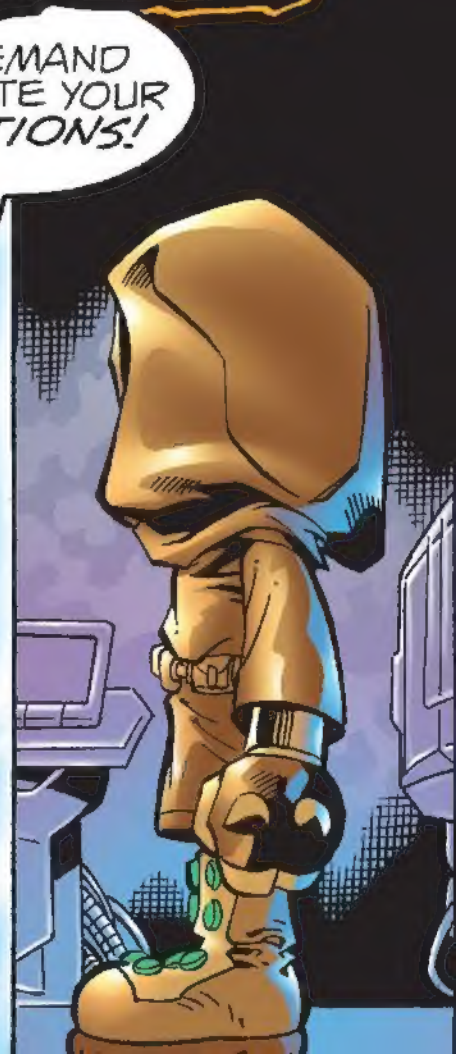

I AM NOT BATHED IN THE WARM, SOOTHING NUTRIENTS--

"--THAT PROFESSOR GERALD HAD RAISED ME IN..."*
IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO AWAKEN!

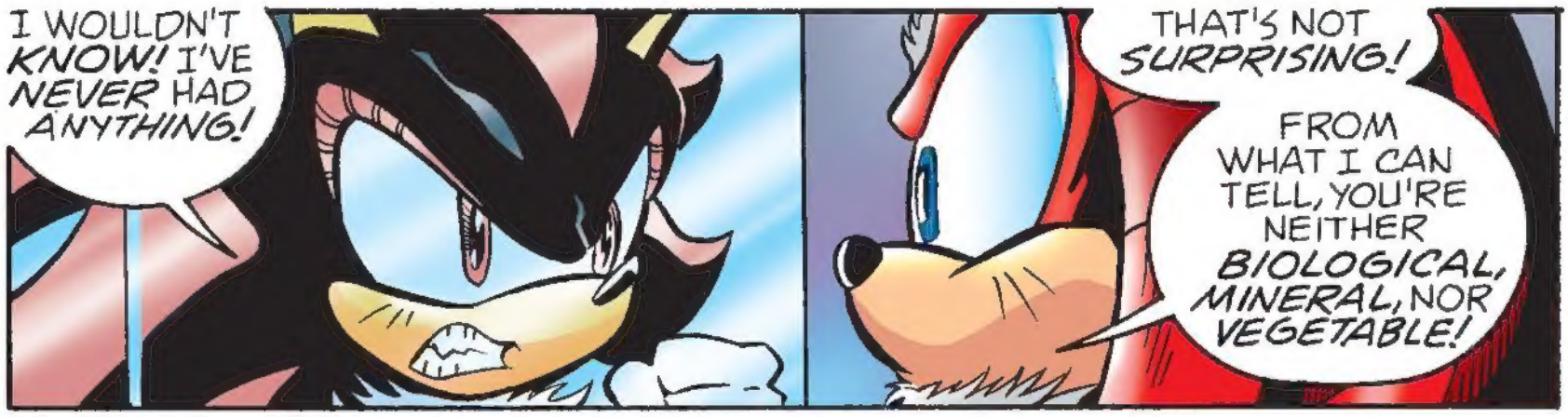
"THE NEXT THING I KNOW, I AM WITNESSING THE MURDER OF THE PROFESSOR'S GRANDDAUGHTER MARIA..."*
UNGH!
*SEE SONIC THE HEDGE-HOG # 98.

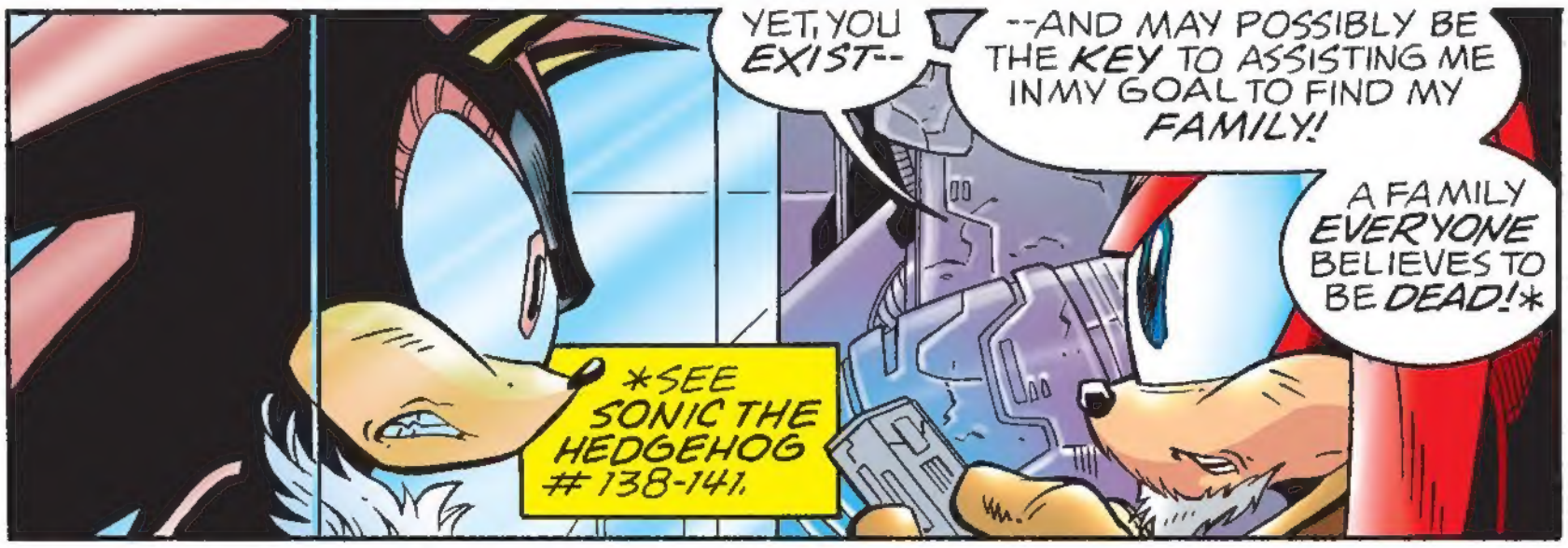

"NOR IS THIS LIKE THE BEM CHAMBER--"
"--WHERE I WAS REVIVED AFTER AN EPIC BATTLE INVOLVING GERALD'S DESCEND-ANT; ROBOTNIK, SONIC, AND MYSELF."*

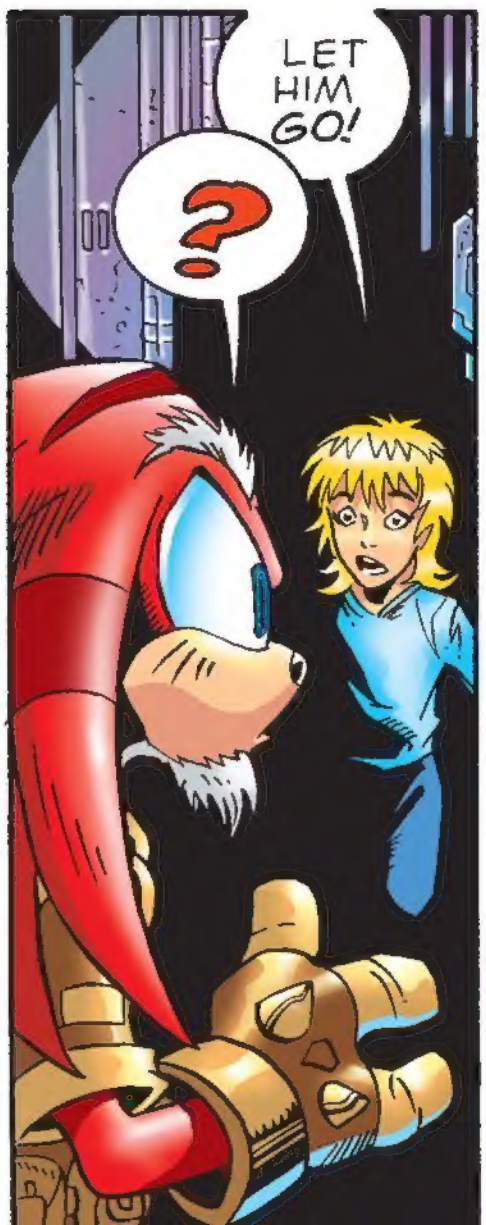

YOU WHO HAVE ME FOR THE MOMENT--
--I DEMAND YOU STATE YOUR INTENTIONS!
*SEE SONIC THE HEDGE-HOG #124.



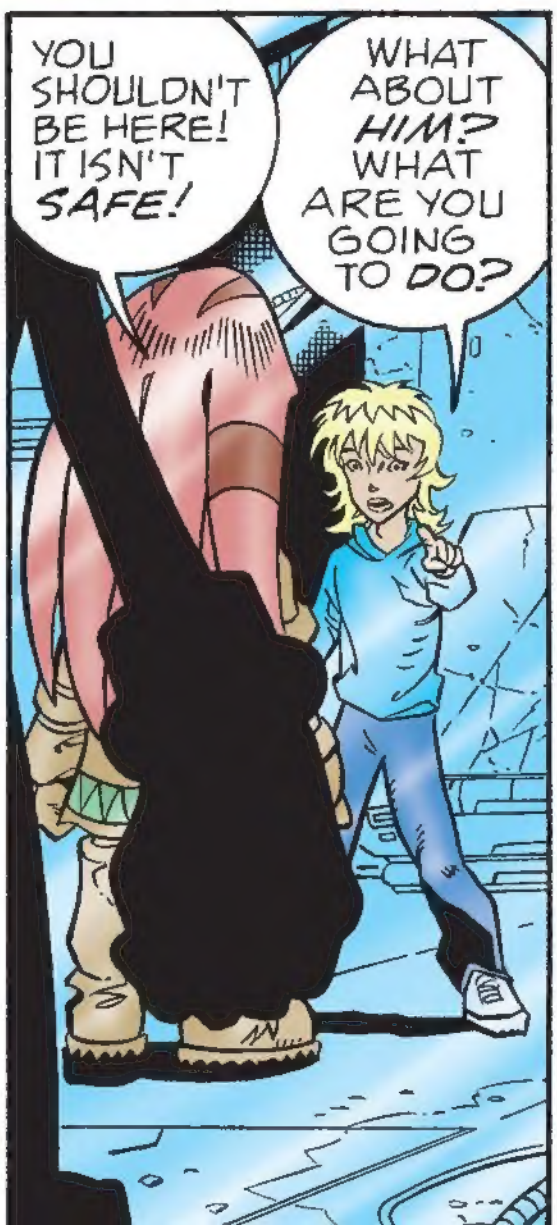
MY NAME IS LOCKE.
I'M ON A QUEST! A FOOL'S ERRAND, TO HEAR EVERYONE ELSE TELL IT!
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE EVERY-THING?


I WOULDN'T KNOW! I'VE NEVER HAD ANYTHING!
THAT'S NOT SURPRISING!
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, YOU'RE NEITHER BIOLOGICAL, MINERAL, NOR VEGETABLE!


YET, YOU EXIST--
--AND MAY POSSIBLY BE THE KEY TO ASSISTING ME IN MY GOAL TO FIND MY FAMILY!
A FAMILY EVERYONE BELIEVES TO BE DEAD!*
*SEE SONIC THE HEDGEHOG # 138-141.


LET HIM GO!
?

IF YOU MEAN HIM NO HARM, WHY DON'T YOU LET HIM GO?
APPARENTLY, THE TELE-PORT FIELD DIDN'T DISSOLVE FAST ENOUGH!

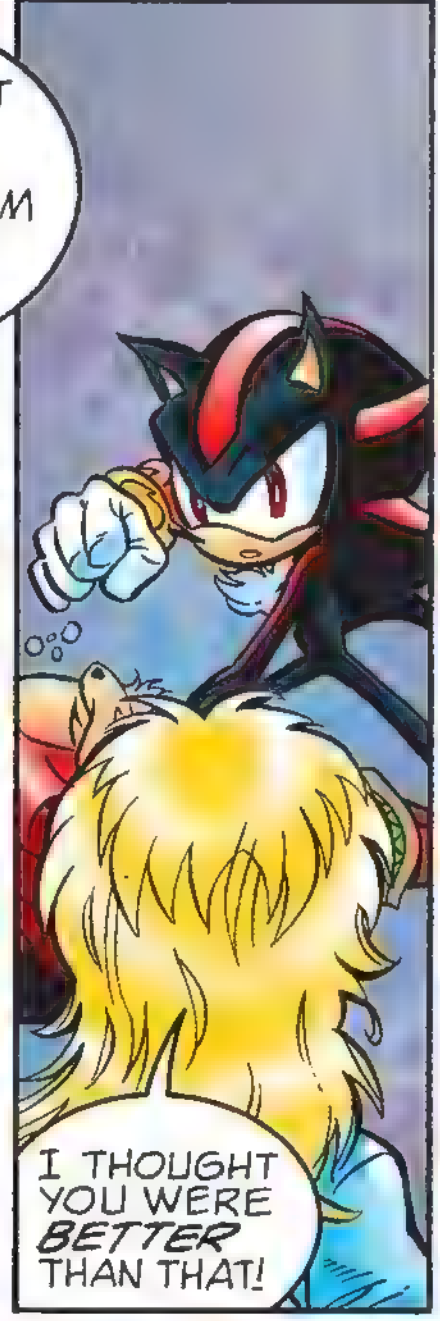

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE! IT ISN'T SAFE!
WHAT ABOUT HIM? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

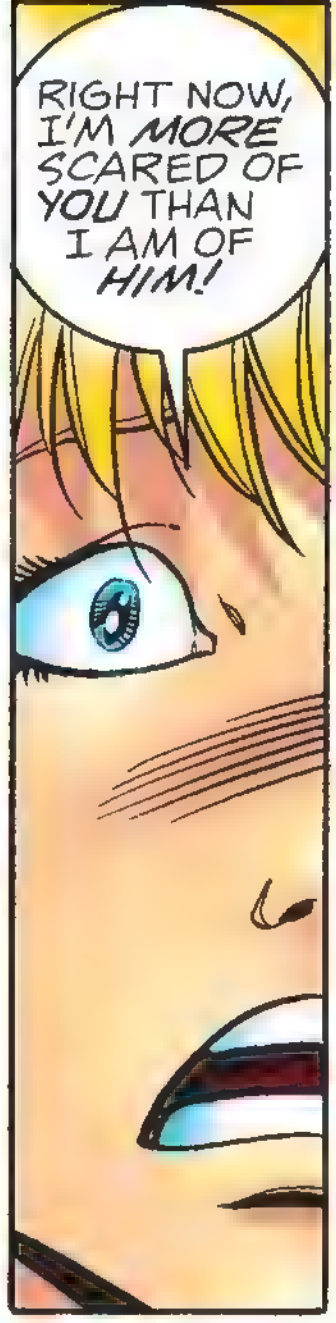
AS I APPROACHED THE GIRL, IT HADN'T DAWNED ON ME WHAT REACTIONS I WAS PROVOKING WITHIN THE CREATURE--THAT IT WAS ASSOCIATING THE PRESENT WITH WHAT HAPPENED IN ITS PAST--
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO UNDER-STAND!
--THAT I WAS THE MATCH--
--LIGHT-ING THE FUSE--
--SETTING OFF THE EXPLOSION!
THUD!
JUST WHEN MATTERS SEEMED AT THEIR MOST DIRE--

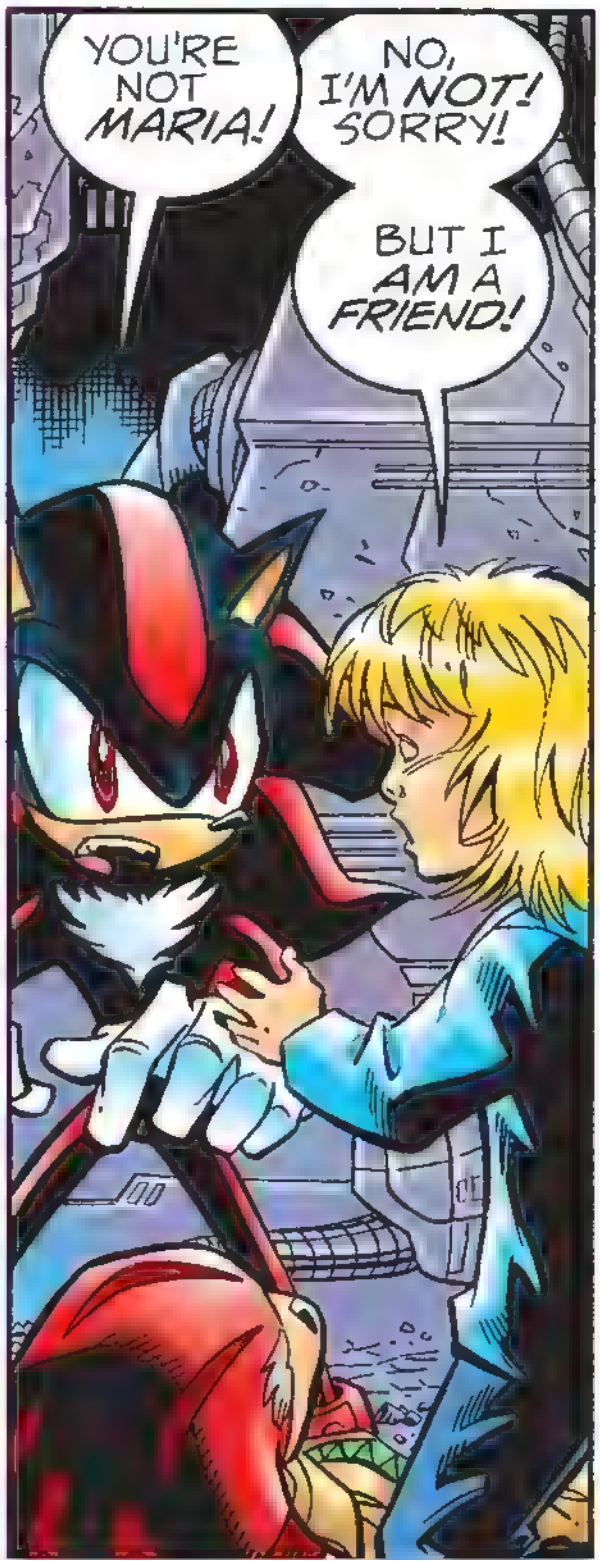
--I INFORM HIM I ALSO WIELD THE POWER CHAOS!
WHILE NOWHERE NEAR THE RANGE MY SON HAS DEMONSTRATED--
AS FOR THE CREATURE --WHETHER IT WAS RAGE OR SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY--
--BUT WHAT I WAS CAPABLE OF WAS MORE THAN SUFFICIENT!
--IT WAS PROVING IT HAD SOMETHING I LACKED--
--KILLER INSTINCT!

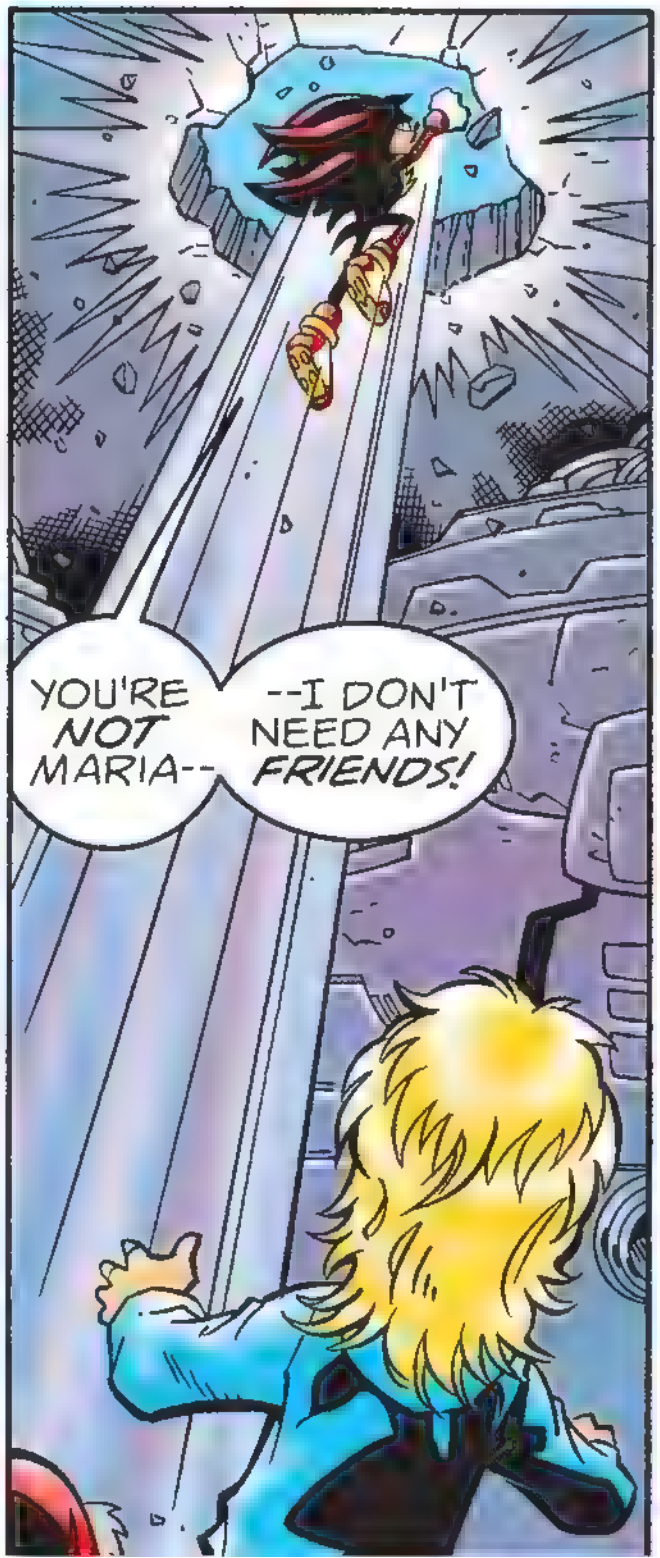
DON'T HURT HIM!
HE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN NICE TO YOU--

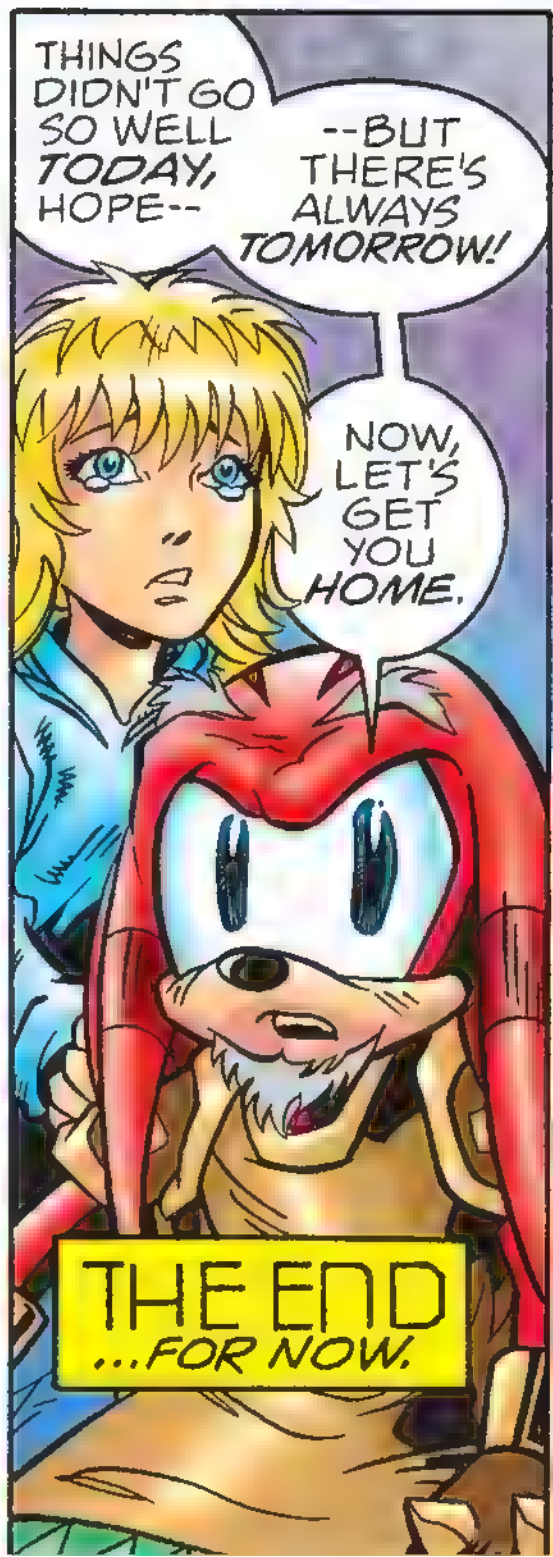
--BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN TREAT HIM THE SAME WAY!


I THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER THAN THAT!


RIGHT NOW, I'M MORE SCARED OF YOU THAN I AM OF HIM!


YOU'RE NOT MARIA!
NO, I'M NOT! SORRY!
BUT I AM A FRIEND!


YOU'RE NOT MARIA--
--I DON'T NEED ANY FRIENDS!

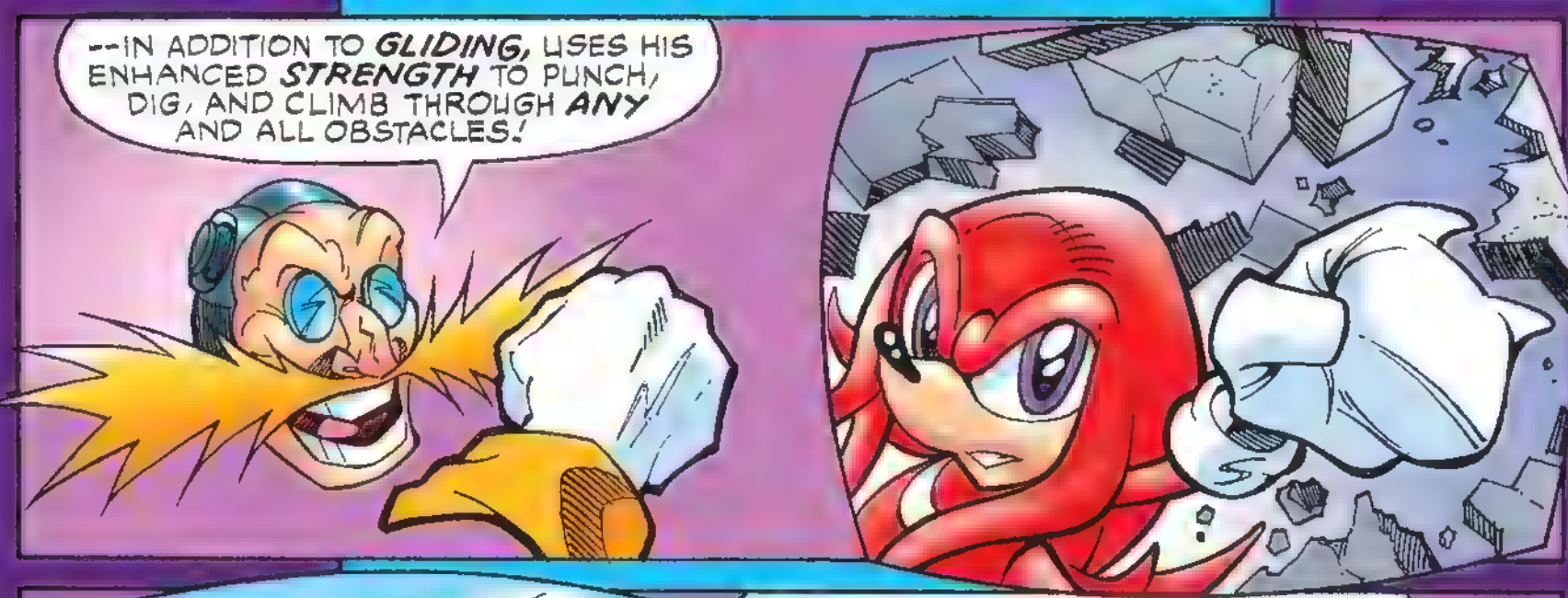

THINGS DIDN'T GO SO WELL TODAY, HOPE--
--BUT THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW!
NOW, LET'S GET YOU HOME.
THE END
...FOR NOW.

ALL RIGHT, GEAR-HEADS--
--LISTEN UP AND TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE FIGURE ON THE VIDEO-MONITOR! HIS NAME IS--
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
--A NOTORIOUS TROUBLE-MAKER WHO SERVES THE KINGDOM OF ACORN! I DESPISE HIS BLUE HIDE WITH EVERY OUNCE OF MY BEING--
--AND SO SHOULD YOU!
DOCTOR ROBOTNIK IN
TRAINING DAY
KARL BOLLERS-STORY
AL BIGLEY-PENCILS
MICHAEL HIGGINS-INKS & LETTERS
JASON JENSEN-COLORS

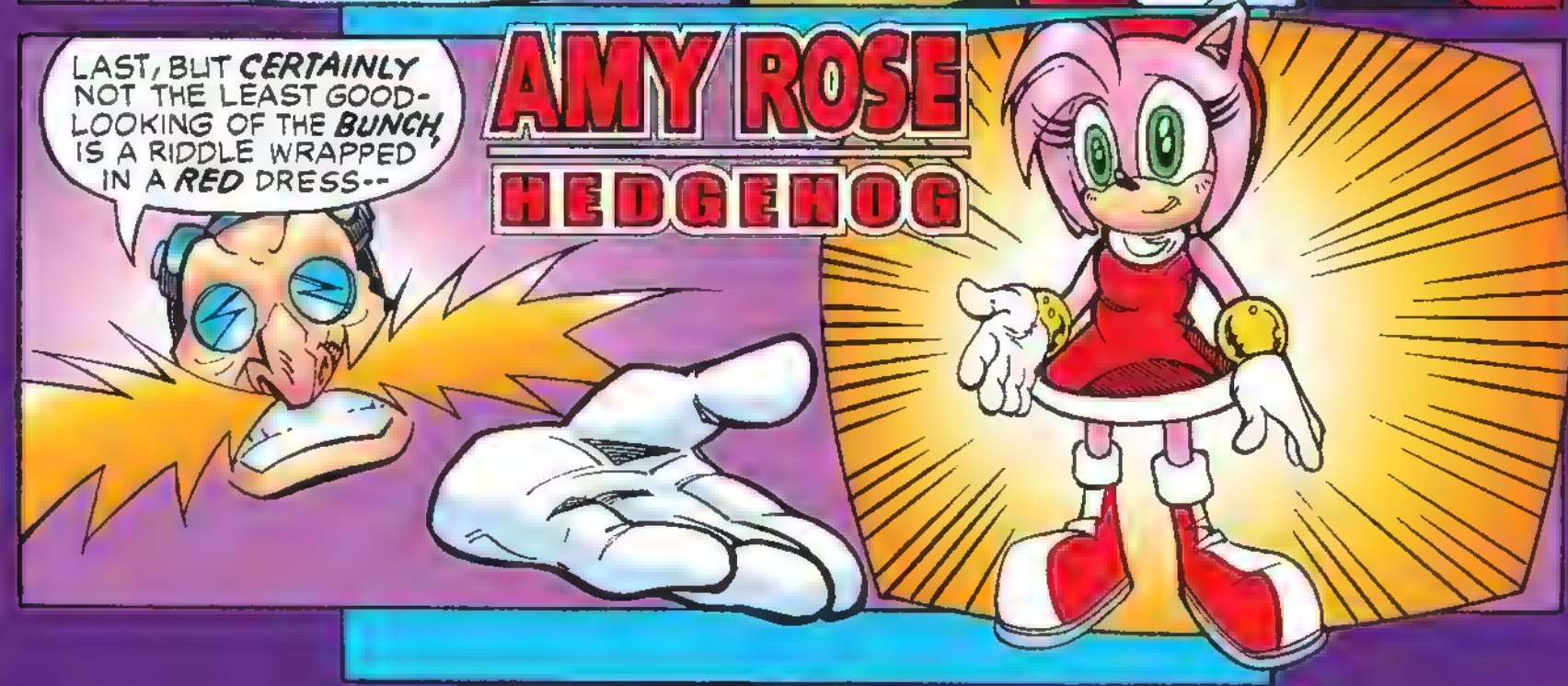
MAKE NO MISTAKE — WHETHER HE'S USING HIS SUPER SPEED TO PERFORM A FIGURE EIGHT MOVE, WHIRLWIND ATTACK--
--OR THE EVER-CLASSIC SPIN DASH, DON'T LET THE FANCY FOOTWORK FOOL YOU--
--THIS ROTTEN APPLE DESIRES NOTHING MORE THAN THE FALL OF MY EGGMAN EMPIRE--
--AND WON'T STOP UNTIL WE STOP HIM... PERMANENTLY!
NEXT UP IS HIS ABLE ACCOMPLICE, MILES PROWER, A.K.A.--
TAILS

THIS TWIN-TAILED, FLYING FOOL IS A THREAT TO ALL THINGS SACRED!
WHEN INSIDE THE COCKPIT OF HIS AERIAL FIGHTING-MACHINE, 'THE TORNADO', THIS FEARSOME FOX IS THE SCOURGE OF THE SKIES--
--AND THE ONLY THING THAT SICKENS ME MORE THAN HIS PRODIGY-LIKE SKILL WITH MACHINERY OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES--
--IS HIS NAUSEA-INDUCING FRIENDSHIP WITH THAT MALEVOLENT HEDGEHOG!
THIRD ON MY HIT LIST IS--
KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA

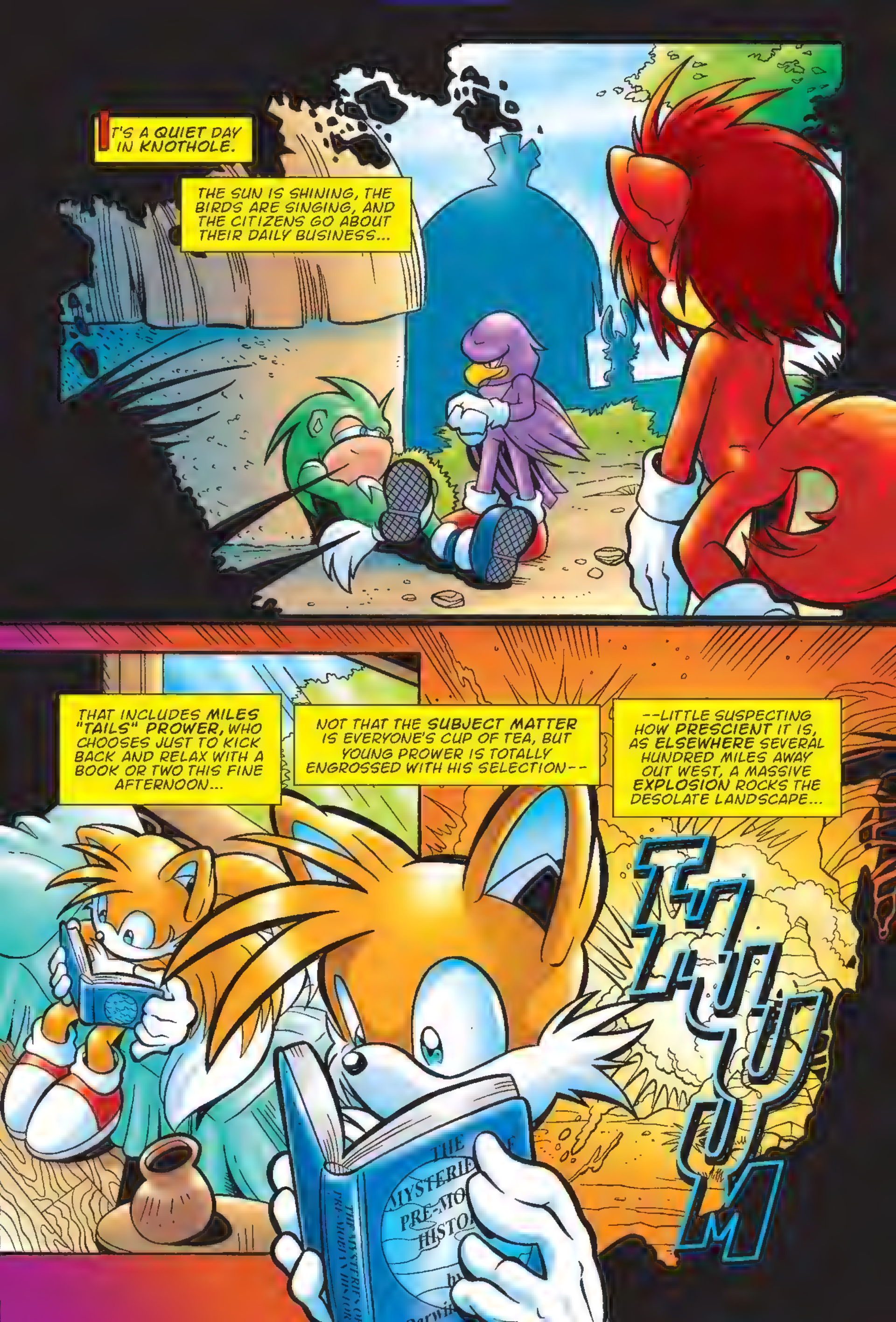
THIS FORMER GUARDIAN OF THE POWERFUL MASTER EMERALD--


--IN ADDITION TO GLIDING, USES HIS ENHANCED STRENGTH TO PUNCH, DIG, AND CLIMB THROUGH ANY AND ALL OBSTACLES!

I'D STICK TO STRICTLY LONG-RANGE ATTACKS IF I WERE YOU!
ALTHOUGH HE'S CURRENTLY AWAY FROM HIS HOME ON ANGEL ISLAND SERVING WITH THE KINGDOM OF ACORN, KNUCKLES IS A LEVEL-A THREAT!


LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT THE LEAST GOOD-LOOKING OF THE BUNCH, IS A RIDDLE WRAPPED IN A RED DRESS--
AMY ROSE
HEDGEHOG

SHOES
SALE
SHE'S A CRAFTY ONE, I SAY! DON'T LET HER LOVE OF SHOPPING MALLS--
--OR HER SCHOOLGIRL INFATUATION WITH SONIC AFFECT YOUR JUDGEMENT! SHE'S EVERY BIT THE MENACE THAT HE IS--
--PLUS HER TAROT CARD DECK AND MYSTICAL PICO PICO HAMMER MAKE HER A ROSE WITH VERY DANGEROUS THORNS!
THESE VILE VERMIN ARE YOUR WORST ENEMIES AND ARE TO BE TERMINATED ON SIGHT! DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
YES-DOCTOR-ROBOTNIK...
END


IT'S A QUIET DAY IN KNOTHOLE.
THE SUN IS SHINING, THE BIRDS ARE SINGING, AND THE CITIZENS GO ABOUT THEIR DAILY BUSINESS...
THAT INCLUDES MILES "TAILS" PROWER, WHO CHOOSES JUST TO KICK BACK AND RELAX WITH A BOOK OR TWO THIS FINE AFTERNOON...
NOT THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER IS EVERYONE'S CUP OF TEA, BUT YOUNG PROWER IS TOTALLY ENGROSSED WITH HIS SELECTION--
--LITTLE SUSPECTING HOW PRESCIENT IT IS, AS ELSEWHERE SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES AWAY OUT WEST, A MASSIVE EXPLOSION ROCKS THE DESOLATE LANDSCAPE...
FLUUUM

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

AS THE SHOCKWAVES REVERBERATE AND THE DUST ATTEMPTS TO SETTLE, BACK IN KNOTHOLE WE FIND

ENGAGING IN A FRIENDLY GAME OF DARTS WITH SEVERAL FRIENDS...

BET YA CAN'T EVEN HIT THE BOARD!

ASH! IT'S ALL IN FUN!

RIGHT ON MINA, BUT ASH DOES HAVE A POINT!

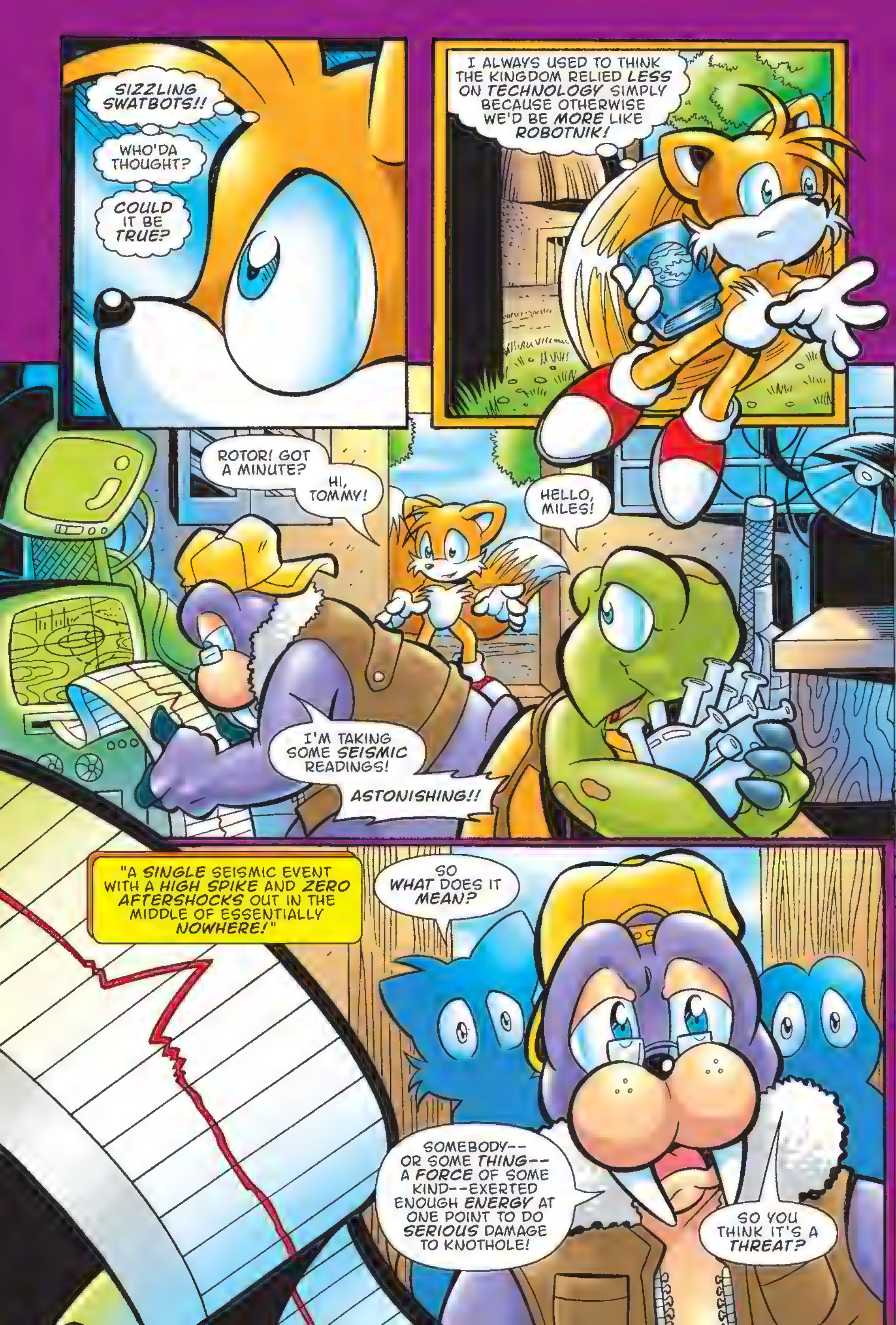
JUST BECAUSE SUGAH-HOG IS FAST DOESN'T MEAN HE'S ACCURATE!

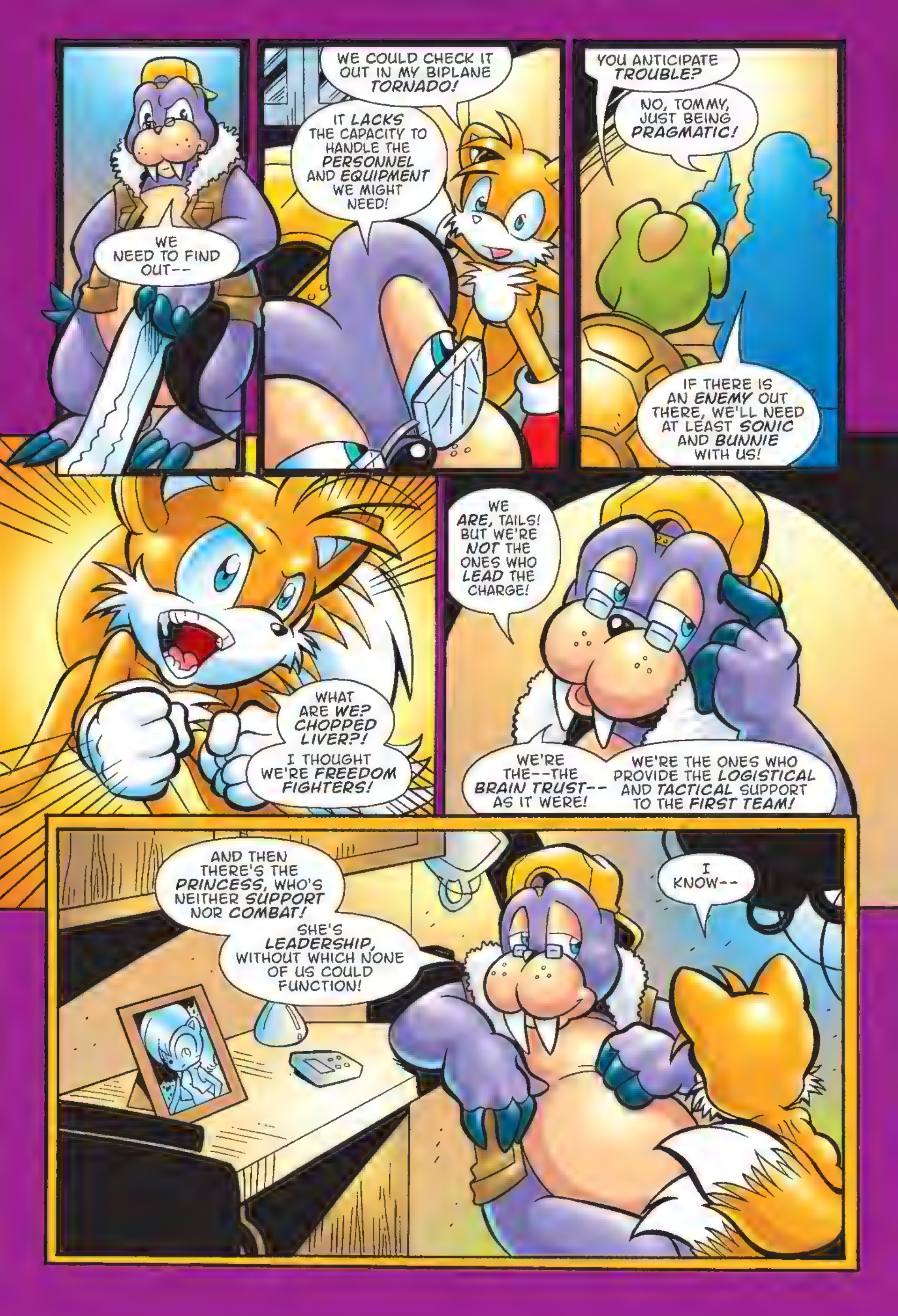
HARBINGER

In answer to a zillion reader requests--

WRITER KEN PENDERS
ARTIST DAWN BEST
INKER JIM AMASH
LETTERER JEFF POWELL
COLORIST JASON JENSEN

I WUZ ROBBED!!
ALRIGHT, MOUTH!
LET'S PUT UP OR SHUT UP!
YOUR TURN!
A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT, AREN'T YOU?
YOU SOUND LIKE A ROBOTNIK WANNABE!
JUST WATCH AND WEEP, LEADFOOT!
YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET TRASHED!
HOOO-EEEEE!!
THE BOYS ARE STRUTTIN'?!
BIG TIME, BUNNIE!
EGGMAN
THWOK
BEST TWO OUT OF THREE?
AHEM... YOU WERE SAYING?


SIZZLING SWATBOTS!!
WHO'DA THOUGHT?
COULD IT BE TRUE?
I ALWAYS USED TO THINK THE KINGDOM RELIED LESS ON TECHNOLOGY SIMPLY BECAUSE OTHERWISE WE'D BE MORE LIKE ROBOTNIK!
ROTOR! GOT A MINUTE?
HI, TOMMY!
HELLO, MILES!
I'M TAKING SOME SEISMIC READINGS!
ASTONISHING!!
"A SINGLE SEISMIC EVENT WITH A HIGH SPIKE AND ZERO AFTERSHOCKS OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF ESSENTIALLY NOWHERE!"
SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
SOMEBODY--OR SOME THING--A FORCE OF SOME KIND--EXERTED ENOUGH ENERGY AT ONE POINT TO DO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO KNOTHOLE!
SO YOU THINK IT'S A THREAT?


WE NEED TO FIND OUT--
WE COULD CHECK IT OUT IN MY BIPLANE TORNADO!
IT LACKS THE CAPACITY TO HANDLE THE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT WE MIGHT NEED!
YOU ANTICIPATE TROUBLE?
NO, TOMMY, JUST BEING PRAGMATIC!
IF THERE IS AN ENEMY OUT THERE, WE'LL NEED AT LEAST SONIC AND BUNNIE WITH US!
WHAT ARE WE? CHOPPED LIVER?!
I THOUGHT WE'RE FREEDOM FIGHTERS!
WE ARE, TAILS! BUT WE'RE NOT THE ONES WHO LEAD THE CHARGE!
WE'RE THE--THE BRAIN TRUST-- AS IT WERE!
WE'RE THE ONES WHO PROVIDE THE LOGISTICAL AND TACTICAL SUPPORT TO THE FIRST TEAM!
AND THEN THERE'S THE PRINCESS, WHO'S NEITHER SUPPORT NOR COMBAT!
SHE'S LEADERSHIP, WITHOUT WHICH NONE OF US COULD FUNCTION!
I KNOW--

"THIS ISN'T A MATTER OF HEROICS OR *SELF-INTEREST*, BUT WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE *GREATER GOOD*..."

I *STILL* THINK WE COULDA HANDLED THIS *OURSELVES*--

I'M SO WORKED UP OVER *ROTOR*--

--THAT I JUST *REALIZED* I DON'T KNOW *WHERE* SONIC IS!

ASH! WAIT! DON'T GO!

HE'S SO *OBNOXIOUS*, MINA!

YOU WERE *BOTH* EGGING EACH OTHER ON!

CORRECTION-- I *DO* NOW!

EVERYONE'S HERE!

WONDER WHY *NO ONE* INVITED *ME?*

EIGHT BAHL IN THE CORNER POCKET!

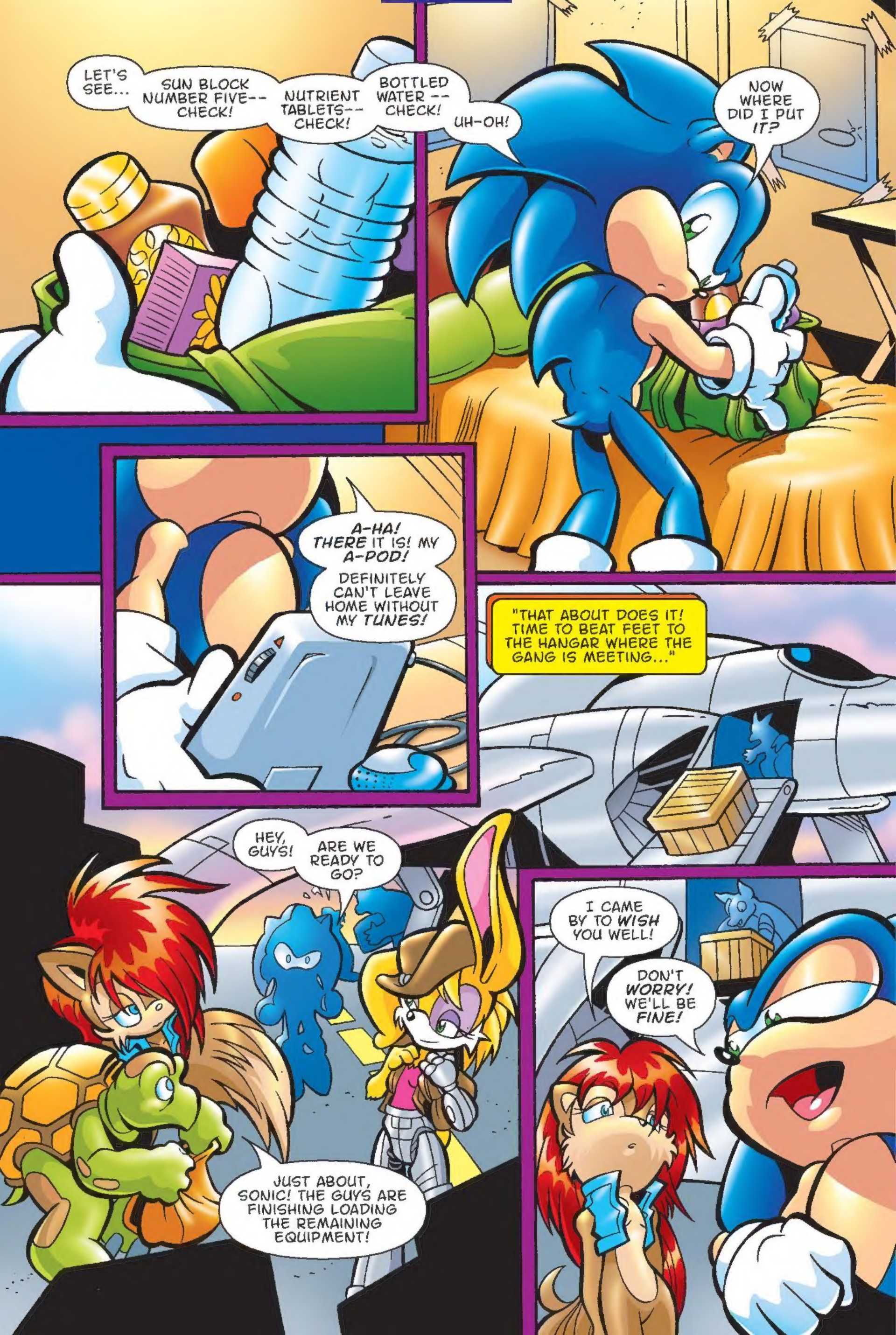
TAILS! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?

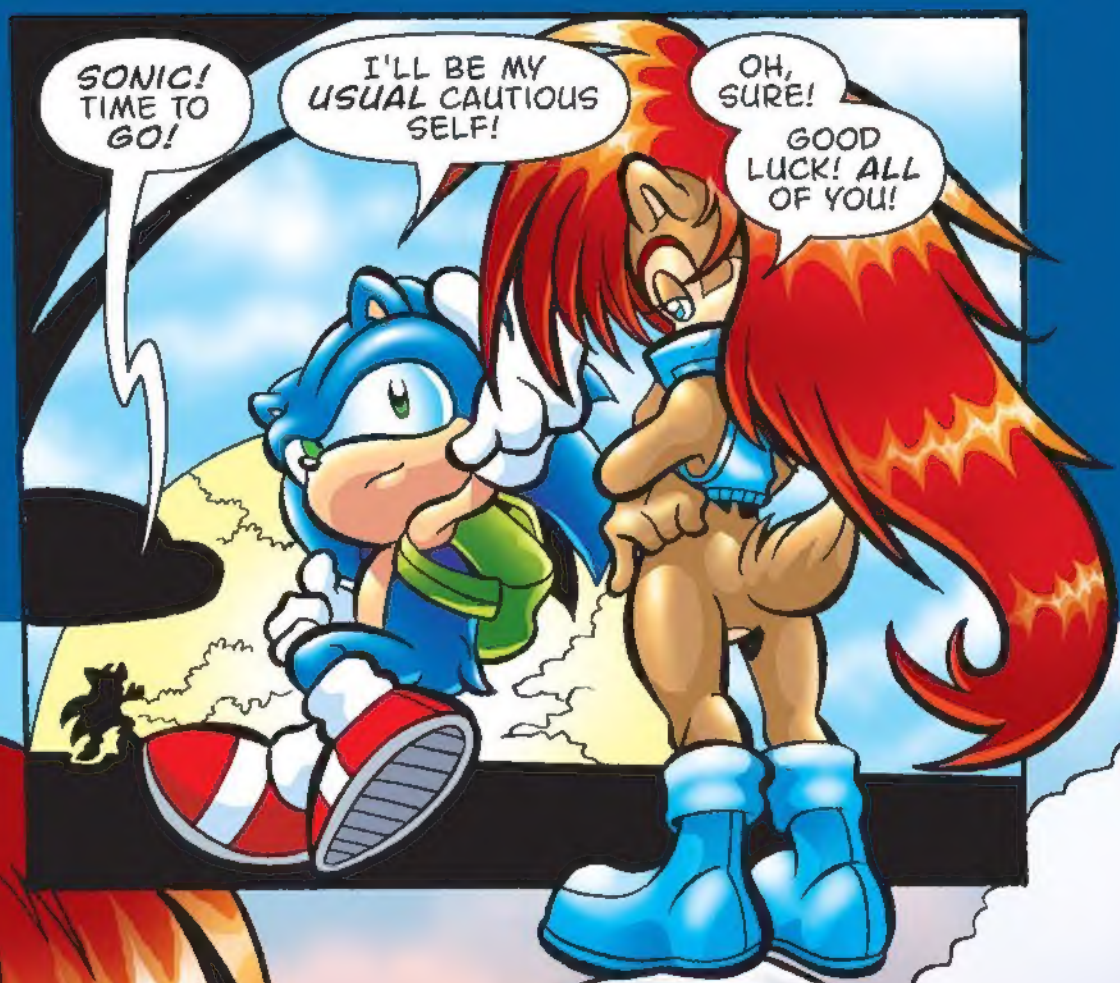
I KNOCKED ON YOUR DOOR *EARLIER* AND NOBODY ANSWERED!

WAS I *THAT* INTO MY BOOK?

UHH... ERR...

GOT ANY *PLANS* FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS?


LET'S SEE...
SUN BLOCK NUMBER FIVE-- CHECK!
NUTRIENT TABLETS-- CHECK!
BOTTLED WATER -- CHECK!
UH-OH!
NOW WHERE DID I PUT IT?
A-HA! THERE IT IS! MY A-POD!
DEFINITELY CAN'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT MY TUNES!
"THAT ABOUT DOES IT! TIME TO BEAT FEET TO THE HANGAR WHERE THE GANG IS MEETING..."
HEY, GUYS!
ARE WE READY TO GO?
JUST ABOUT, SONIC! THE GUYS ARE FINISHING LOADING THE REMAINING EQUIPMENT!
I CAME BY TO WISH YOU WELL!
DON'T WORRY! WE'LL BE FINE!



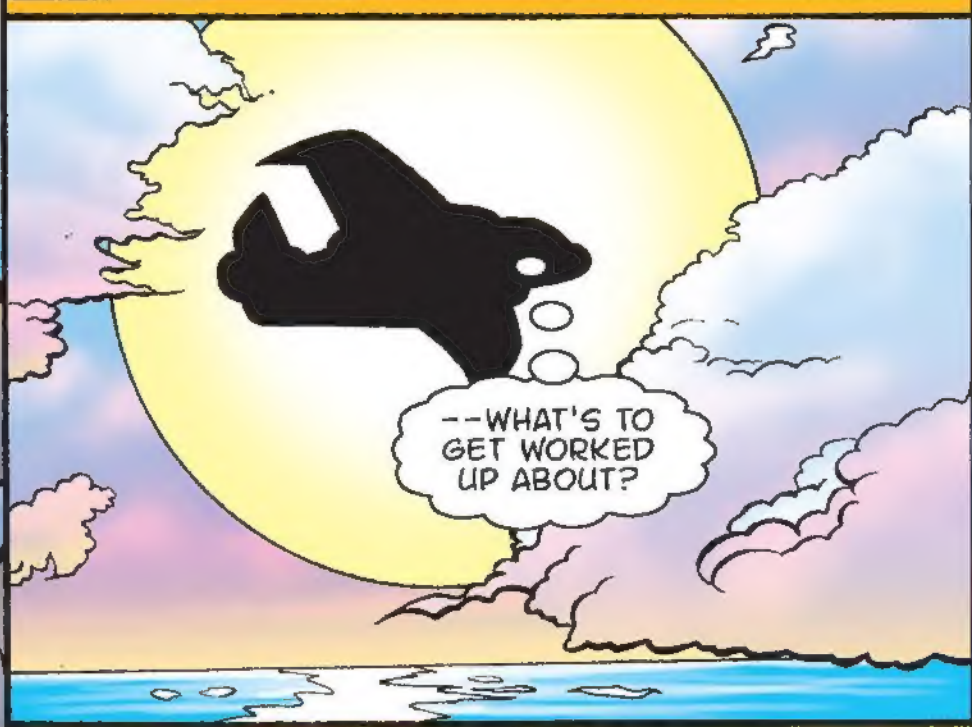
I LOVE YOU, SONIC!

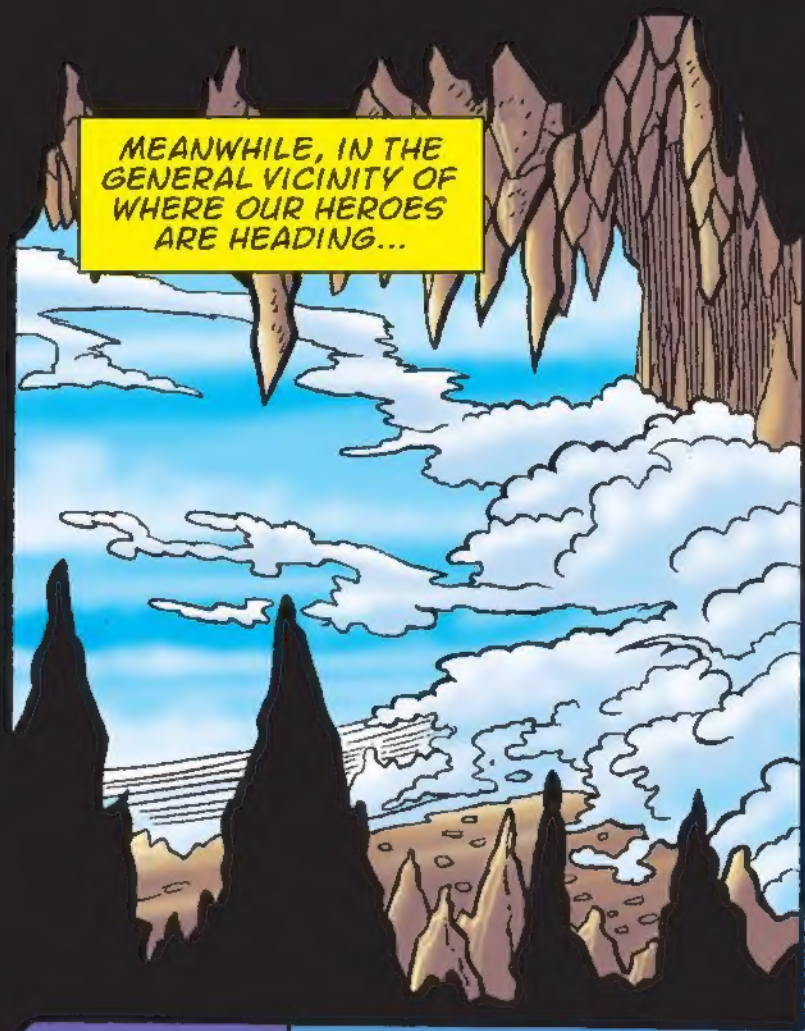
PRAY YOU AND THE OTHERS COME BACK SAFE AND SOUND!

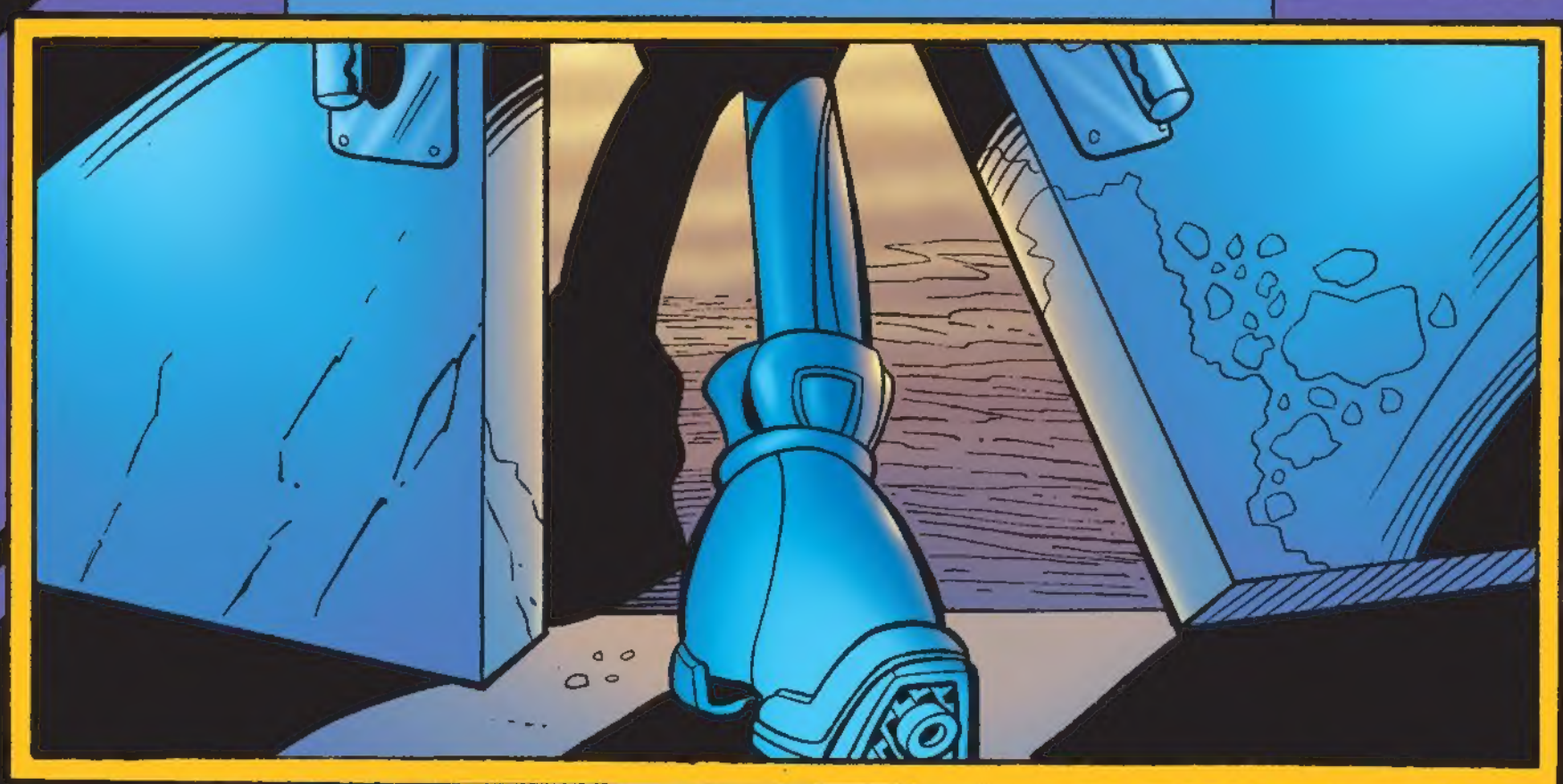
ANYTHING WRONG, SONIC?

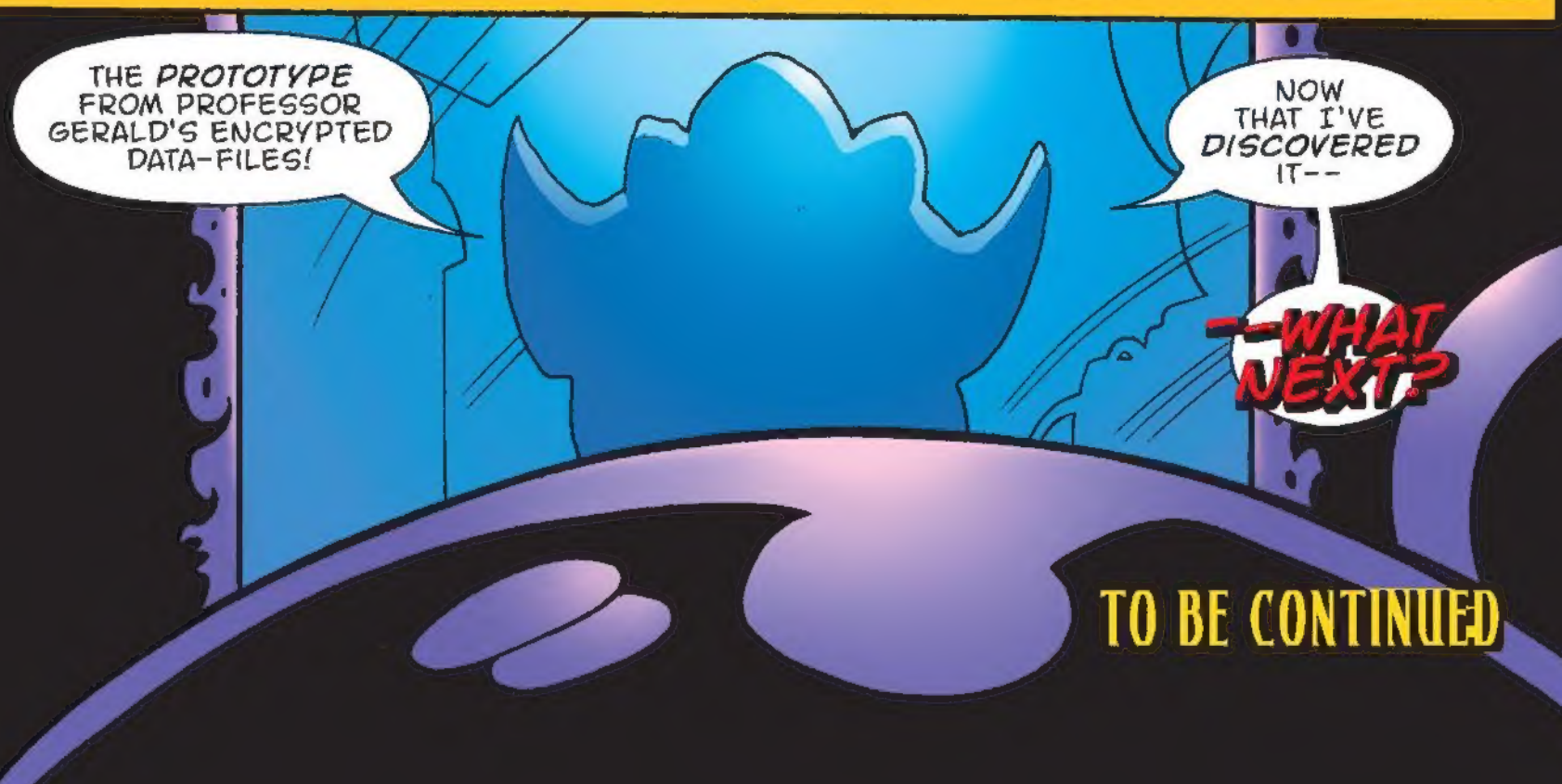
NAH! JUST THINKING!

TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER TO PLAY MY TUNES OR YOUR HANDHELD GAME!









TO BE CONTINUED